FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 MAY 1984

Gulf Crisis

The Arab states are "astonished" that the United States has adopted the attitude of a "spectator" with regard to the Iraq-Iran war, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah asserted in remarks reported by KUNA. In another KUNA report, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir stressed that the Gulf waters are not territorial but international and that consequently he does not have the right to oppose "military intervention." The foreign minister said that, while he is not "concerned" about intervention by countries dependent on the Gulf, he cannot grant them bases in Kuwait. He also observed that the GCC countries, "especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia," had agreed to consolidate their air defense systems to deter any further attack. Another Foreign Ministry official cited by the agency stressed that Kuwait will not seek U.S. assistance or protection, as it is determined to prevent the Gulf from being opened up to "international struggle."

Asked about possible U.S. air cover for tankers, Saudi Petroleum Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani replied that "no one will invite the United States to come without thinking of the Soviet Union coming," AFP reported. He warned Iran that Saudi Arabia would defend itself if attacked.

In a separate development, during a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, an Arab League delegation urged Japan to "drastically reduce" imports of Iranian oil in order to cut off Iran's oil revenue and end the war, KYODO reported.

A Foreign Ministry announcement broadcast by Tehran radio criticized the final resolution issued by the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis for ignoring Iraq's "warmongering." The announcement stated that Iran will make every effort to maintain security and stability in the Gulf and that Iran opposes interference by "any foreign force" in the area. It also warned that if Iran is prevented from exporting its oil, no oil will be exported from the region.

Syria-ICO

Syria has decided to suspend its membership in the ICO's Jerusalem Committee under the chairmanship of Moroccan King Hassan II because it regards the recent Jewish conference in Morocco attended by an Israeli delegation as a flagrant violation of ICO principles and of the aims for which the Jerusalem Committee was founded. The Syrian announcement, which was contained in a Foreign Ministry memorandum to the ICO secretary general broadcast by Damascus radio, added that Syria will boycott the committee's meetings "until the reasons which led to this suspension are removed" and urged other members of the committee to follow suit.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Knesset that Israel has no intention of attacking Syria and that, if circles in Syria want to heat up the atmosphere, they should realize Israel will not be dragged into any provocation, according to the transcript of Shamir's speech issued by the GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE. He warned that those in Israel who are hinting that there will be "something to talk about" with Jordan if and when they come to power are undermining Israel's interests.

Shamir reaffirmed his willingness to negotiate with any Arab country without preconditions or promises of concessions concerning sovereignty in "Eretz Yisra'el," adding that the Camp David accords are still the "only basis for negotiations."

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said in his Knesset speech that the Alignment does not insist on incorporating Jordan in negotiations based on the Camp David accords because the Jordanians did not participate in the deliberations which led to those agreements, Jerusalem radio reported.

Libya

Relations With Tunisia — Libya has decided to release three Tunisian border guards captured on 8 May, AFP reported citing sources in Tunis. The decision followed talks between Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki and Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Beji Caid Essebsi that were held in an atmosphere of "complete frankness," according to Tunis radio.

Warning to U.S., UK — Libya's revolutionary committees are "in constant readiness to execute the death sentence and transfer the battle into these countries which feed terrorism," *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* warned the United States and Britain in an editorial reported by JANA.

PLO Affairs

Leaders of Fatah dissidents, As-Sa'iqah, the PFLP-General Command, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front have formed a "Palestinian National Alliance" and called for the establishment of a "joint body for national salvation" chaired by the PNC speaker and including those PLO Executive Committee members hostile to the "deviationist and capitulatory trend" represented by Yasir 'Arafat, Damascus television reported. The alliance's program condemned 'Arafat's leadership, calling for a collective PLO leadership that would escalate armed struggle against Israel and strengthen the strategic alliance with Syria.

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EEC Foreign Ministers' Statement 'Gross Interference'

LD200906 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Kabul, May 19, BAKHTAR — At the recent Brussels session the EEC foreign ministers were pressured by the United States into making an anti-Afghan statement, being nothing but a gross interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The authors of the resolution shed crocodile tears at the "suffering" of the Afghan people and Afghan refugees' plight, keeping mum about the true reasons for the situation obtained in the region.

For six years already Afghanistan has been involved in an undeclared war unleashed against it by the U.S.-led forces of international imperialism and reaction. Hundreds of Western instructors are busy training in Pakistani camps gangs of terrorists and saboteurs bringing death and destruction to Afghanistan. The United States alone has spent for the arming and training of Afghan counterrevolutionaries one billion dollars. The Common Market member states, too, have made their contribution to the undeclared war against Democratic Afghanistan.

Speculating about the plight of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the authors of the resolution play down the fact that the Pakistani authorities intentionally overstate their number in order to get more relief aid from the West.

Indeed, the Afghans deceived by counterrevolutionary ringleaders live in horrible conditions in Pakistani camps and are barred by the same thugs, acting in conspiracy with Islamabad, from returning home. The money that settles as "aid for refugees" in the headquarters of various Afghan counterrevolutionary groups is used for the escalation of the war against the Afghan people.

The anti-Afghan statement of the EEC ministers in Brussels is a testimony to the fact that under the economic and political pressure from the United States, many Common Market countries are getting ever deeper mired in the American policy of state-sponsored terrorism directed against the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. This action, which has been meant to aggravate tensions in southwest Asia, fully contradicts the interests of the Afghan people and other nations in the region urging a speedy political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.

'Counterrevolutionaries' Defeated Throughout Country

LD211431 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1245 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Faizabad, 21 May [BAKHTAR] — As a result of recent operations carried out by the country's vigilant security forces in (Zardi) village, Baharak district [Badakhshan Province], four counterrevolutionary groups were crushed and 30 of the murderers were wounded.

A Badakhshan security forces spokesman said that as a result of these victorious operations, one heavy machine gun, one rocket launcher, and one mortar of the enemy were destroyed.

Kabul, 21 May [BAKHTAR] — Eleven counterrevolutionary elements, belonging to the Hezb-e Islami and Jami'at-e Islami bands who for some time have been disrupting peaceful life in (Naw Niaz) village, Chahar Asiab District, Kabul Province, were today arrested in the village by the vigilant security forces of the country.

A security force spokesman told a BAKHTAR correspondent that eight Egyptian- and Chinese-made Kalashnikovs with 1,500 rounds of ammunition, 1 U.S.-made bomb, and a quantity of antistate documents were seized from these criminals by the security forces.

Rebels Crushed; Weapons Captured

LD211739 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Counterrevolutionaries, these enemies of the people's tranquillity and well-being, are no longer capable of confronting the country's vigilant security forces and are being routed day by day.

According to a security forces source, recently, as a result of successful operations by the vigilant security forces of the country in Parvan Province, 2 recoilless guns, 1 mortar, 2 DShK's, 5 R-105 communications sets, 4 R-127 radio sets, 33 antitank mines, 20 hand grenades, mortar shells, 54 medium-range mortar shells, 27 boxes of DShK ammunition, 39 rockets, a number of other types of weapons together with 3 enemy ammunition depots were seized by the security forces.

According to another report, as a result of operations by the security forces of the country in (Alchin) village, Qonduz Province, two leaders of the so-called Islamic Band were captured together with six mines, rocket launchers, and a number of light weapons.

Similarly, a number of enemies of the people and of the revolution, led by Qorban Nazar, were crushed; one was captured in operations in (Junta) and Chunghar villages and other villages in the center of Jowzjan Province. Two rocket launchers, 3 other weapons, and 606 rounds of ammunition were captured from them.

Also, in (Bangam), Char Shanghow, and (Adamzai) areas of Balkh District, Balkh Province, a number of rebels were crushed and number of them captured as a result of successful operations by the country's security forces. A quantity of assorted weapons was seized from these criminals by the vigilant security forces.

During other operations in villages of Owbeh District, Herat Province, a number of armed counterrevolutionary elements were crushed and 20 of them wounded.

As a result of other successful operations by the country's vigilant security forces in Khugiani District, Nangarhar Province, a number of armed enemies of the people and of the revolution were crushed and one mortar, two rocket launchers, and one DShK were destroyed.

Qandahar Province 'Traitors' Punished

LD191457 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] As a result of heroic operations by security forces to cleanse the country of the foul presence of counterrevolutionary elements, a number of saboteur and murderous bands, together with their leader Sardar Mohammad, known as Agha, were recently punished for their foul deeds in (Band-e Temor) village, in the Maywand District of Qandahar Province.

A spokesman for the Qandahar security forces said that 8 weapons, 200 rounds of ammunition, 2 rocket launcher shells, and documents which proved their links with counterrevolutionary bands abroad were seized from these traitors.

Families Return to Panjsher

LD182045 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] As a result of the heroism of the country's security forces and after ridding the Panjsher District and its surrounding areas of the foul presence of the corrupt counterrevolutionary elements of Ahmad Shah Masud's band, 110 toiling families from Sakhi village of Kuhestan District, appreciating and extolling the bravery of the security forces, recently returned to their homes and resumed their normal lives. On arrival at their village, the members of these families at a gathering once again expressed support for the April Revolution, especially its new development stage, and for the principled policy of the party and the DRA Government. Speaking at this gathering they angrily recalled the inhuman actions by Ahmad Shah's band that caused them to leave their homes and strongly condemned all plots and conspiracies of this group — the servant of imperialism and reaction headed by the U.S. criminal imperialism — against the people, the homeland, and the April Revolution.

Government Convoy Attacked in Zabol Province

BK200006 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have attacked a military convoy, killing several Soviet-Karmal troops in Chagai subdivision of Zabol Province. They also destroyed two tanks and captured a huge quantity of ammunition. Another report from Afghanistan says the mujahidin claim to have occupied (Shatraj), a civil headquarters in Nangarhar Province, after 20 hours of fighting on Thursday. According to the report, the mujahidin also captured at least 20 Karmal regime officials, including the (?Tah Kheyl) chief commander.

Military Post Besieged in Paktia Province

BK201530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have besieged a military post in the Zazi Maidan area of Paktia Province, and fierce fighting has continued there over the past 4 days. The mujahidin captured an officer of the Afghan intelligence agency, Khad, and eight other Karmal soldiers from their houses near the military post. The Soviet-Karmal aircraft carried out heavy bombing operations in the area, martyring two mujahidin.

More Soviet Troops Transferred to Panjsher Valley

BK181656 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, more Soviet soldiers are being sent to the Panjsher valley in a bid to end the mujahidin's resistance. Some 1,200 more Soviet soldiers have arrived in Rukheh from Kabul and are being stationed there, while more than 100 paratroopers are being dropped at the upper region of the valley. According to reports, 200 Karmal soldiers joined the mujahidin after fleeing from the military camp in [name indistinct] near Rukheh. The mujahidin are attacking Soviet-Karmal forces that are encircled in the valley.

Mujahidin Victories in Herat Province Depicted

GF211338 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] According to reports received from all corners of our hero-nurturing Islamic country of Afghanistan, the battle of our mujahidin and infidel-slaying brothers against the Soviet usurpers and the deceived Karmalites continues.

Our valiant combatant brothers are inflicting numerous blows and losses in the battlefield on the Red Soviet (?forces). According to reports from Herat, a vehicle of the aggressive Soviet forces was destroyed due to the planting of mines by our brothers who are ever present in the trenches in the area of (Anjirak), and all the occupants were killed.

According to the same reports, our noble fighting brothers were successful in killing some of the (?aggressors) and wounding others in another attack on the (?outposts) in [name indistinct]. In this courageous attack, some arms and ammunition fell into our brothers' hands as booty.

On the basis of confirmed sources, our mujahidin revolutionary brothers attacked a train carrying some Soviet occupationists and the ensuing clash lasted for 7 hours. During this clash which took place in Chehel Dokhtaran, a few kilometers from the Soviet border, heavy blows were dealt upon the Soviet usurpists. The same report states that some tanks and 8 vehicles of the defeated Soviet forces were destroyed and all the occupants were killed. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were seized by our ever victorious brothers. According to reports, more and more deceived soldiers are fleeing, and high-level officers and Muslim soldiers who have realized the true essence of the Islamic revolution and the just struggle of our brothers are surrendering themselves to the cause of truth. Our Muslim brothers warmly welcome them with open arms.

Opposition Rejects Ershad Statement on Elections
BK201533 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 84 pp 1, 10

[Excerpts] The 15-party alliance in a meeting on Sunday with Sheikh Hasina in the chair rejected the election schedule and political programmes contained in President Ershad's address to the nation on Saturday.

The alliance pressed for withdrawal of Martial Law forthwith and in that case the alliance viewed that there would be no vacuum or complications. The meeting further reiterated the alliance's demand for holding only the Parliament election and to summon the Parliament before presidential election. The 15-party alliance felt that it had no alternative.

The alliance stated that the 5-point demand was formulated for peaceful solution to the prevailing crisis and participated in the dialogue. [sentence as published] But the alliance regretted the government did not take into consideration the basic demands of the political parties and proceeded with its own political objective. This situation will push the nation to a state of confrontation, the alliance meeting noted.

The alliance called upon the people to remain united against the evil designs of the Martial Law government and announced its programme to hold rallies and demonstration all over the country in protest against the President's address and for realisation of the 5-point demand.

The meeting noted that the President did not say anything about restoration of fundamental rights, writ jurisdiction of the High Court, and right to appeal in the higher courts by those who were convicted by the Martial Law Courts, although he agreed in principle during the dialogue.

The meeting further noted that the position of different political parties stated by the President in his address was a connection of the position stated by the 15-party alliance, the President's address was aimed at misguiding the people, the alliance said.

The alliance meeting noted with regret the President's threat to the working people instead of accepting their rightful demand. The meeting warned that the people of the country would not tolerate any harassment of the working class.

The Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh while giving its reaction to the President's address to the nation over radio and television on Saturday said that the President's address had failed to fulfil the aspirations of the nation.

An emergency meeting of the Central Working Committee of the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh held on Sunday under the chairmanship of Mr. Abbas Ali Khan, acting amir of the party, reviewed the President's address and adopted certain resolutions.

The Central Working Committee of the Jamaat-e-Islami said that withdrawal of Martial Law and holding of parliamentary elections were the people's demand. It felt that though the President in his address announced schedule for holding the parliamentary election, he did not say anything about the withdrawal of Martial Law. The Jamaat-e-Islami felt that the parliamentary election would not be free and fair under the government of Chief Martial Law Administrator and as such it had made the way for the victory of the candidates of the government party.

In a resolution Jamaat-e-Islami said that the President in his address had expressed deep concern over terrorist activities of a section. But it said that it was beyond doubt that the terrorist quarters gain strength only under Martial Law administration.

The Chief Martial Law Administrator had praised the measures taken by the government during the last two years. But he said nothing about the deteriorating law and order situation; price hike of the essentials, severe economic crisis, restoration of writ jurisdiction of High Court and corruption. The President also in his address detailed the measures taken by the government about Farakka, Talpatti and barbed wire fencing and border clashes. But in reality, the entire North Bengal is going towards desertification and Indian flags were fluttering over Talpatti and the work of barbed wire fencing was progressing without interruption. The Jamaat-e-Islami termed these as mere bluff.

The Jamaat-e-Islami felt that mystery of not announcing the date of the election was nothing but to prolong the Martial Law only to strengthen the newly formed government party.

Advocate Chittaranjan Guha and Mr. A.S.M. Abdur Rab, Acting President and General Secetary respectively of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal in a statement said that the President's announcement of holding the parlimentary elections in the next winter and presidential election later was the result of the compromise between the government, Awami League and BNP. They said only a Parliament of 500 seats including the 200 seat representation of different professions could solve the present political, economic and administrative problems of the country.

The Central Secretariat of the Bangladesh Workers Party in its reaction to the President's address said that the President's announcement was not acceptable as he had bypassed the five-point demand of the nation in a very subtle manner. The President in his address did not say anything about the withdrawal of Martial Law which was one of the prime demands of the nation.

Haii Bashirul Alam and Shah Alam Manik, President and a member of the Presidium of the Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal, in a statement on Sunday said that the President's address to the nation was not acceptable as it did not accept any national demand.

They said that reason behind for not lifting Martial Law was only to make efforts to establish his party in power. [sentence as published]

Mr. Abul Bashar, General Secretary of Bangladesher Majdoor Party said the President in his address announced to hold parliamentary election under Martial Law and as such the Majdoor Party could not accept it.

Mr. Nurur Rahman and Mr. Majibur Rahman, Chairman and General Secretary respectively of the Bangladesh National

Awami Party (Bhashani) in a statement said that President's address to the nation instead of solving the problems had made the problems more complicated. They said that on the plea of administrative vacuum, the President tried to justify continuity of Martial Law, They said the President's address did not fulfil the aspiration of the nation.

BNP Leader Finds Ershad Speech 'Very Disappointing'

BK201456 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 May 84 p 1

[Text] Begum Khaleda Zia, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP], in a statement on Monday night described the President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad's address to the nation on May 11 as "very disappointing," reports BSS.

She said that the five-point demand which was the demand of the people was completely bypassed, and our 33-point memorandum submitted earlier for overall solution of the political issues was not given any importance. The demand for election schedule has been thrown into uncertainty since Gen Ershad had not announced any specific date for the elections, she added.

The BNP chairman alleged that President's address did not positively express his sincerity or good will towards reestablishing democracy or lifting the Martial Law, which were the principal demands of the people and of ensuring the people's basic rights. He also did not take any step to free the political prisoners convicted under the Martial Law, she added.

Opposition Alliances Hold Protest Rallies in Dhaka

BK201617 Hong Kong AFP in English 1603 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Dhaka, May 20 (AFP) — Bangladesh's two major opposition alliances, 15-party and the seven-party combines, today rejected the military regime's new election timetable under which parliamentary polls are to be held next winter. They reiterated their demand for the immediate lifting of martial law.

The two alliances, observing countrywide "Protest Day" today, registered their disapproval of the announcement by military ruler President Hussain Mohammed Ershad that the parliamentary elections would be held this winter. They demanded that a firm date for the polls be announced immediately.

In Dhaka, the two alliances, in separate rallies addressed by their top leaders, warned that they would resort to a mass movement if the government failed to meet their demands for early transition to democracy.

At a rally at the Central Martyrs' Memorial here, the 15-party alliance through a declaration demanded that martial law be lifted immediately to ensure free and fair elections of a "sovereign parliament." The declaration also called for immediate restoration of fundamental rights and writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

Dr. Kamal Hossain, an Awami League leader and a former foreign minister who presided over the rally in the absence of its leader Sheikh Hasina Wazed, lambasted the Army regime. He said the nation was "being run to the point of (?doom) through free style administration. This government has no economic policy, no industrial policy," and the country was being run "on the whims of the Army coterie."

Sheikh Hasina was on a tour of tornado-affected areas in the country.

The seven-party alliance, in a similar rally here today echoed their disapproval of President Ershad's May 12 address, which they said "did not reflect the people's aspiration for quick transition to democracy." Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the seven-party alliance, asked the military regime to hand over power to the people. "If they do not step down, they would be forced to go back to the barracks by the people through massive political movement," Khaleda Zia, the widow of assassinated President Ziaur Rahman, told the rally.

The two alliances ended their rallies with separate marches which included shouting slogans against the military government.

Mild Earthquake Hits Maulvi Bazar 21 May

BK220137 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] A mild earthquake hit Maulvi Bazar town yesterday afternoon. It lasted about 15 seconds and sent panic-stricken people to the streets. There was, however, no report of damage or casualty.

Gandhi, World Leaders Launch Antinuclear War Drive

BK220935 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] New Delhi, May 22 (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and four other world leaders today launched a peace initiative aimed at stemming the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union, a declaration by the group said. "We are united in the conviction that there must not be another world war," said the declaration issued jointly by Mrs. Gandhi, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere.

The five leaders hope to break the current political impasse on arms control by using their combined influence to appeal directly to the United States and the Soviet Union as well as to other nuclear weapons states such as Britain, France, and China. The "four-continent peace initiative" is the result of more than a year of intense consultations among the non-nuclear countries during a period of deteriorating relations between the two superpowers, said the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) which released the declaration.

All five leaders were expected to consult shortly with the heads of government of the nuclear weapons states. They plan to remain in close contact with each other following the declaration in order to track the political response and to review possible next steps, PTI said.

The peace initiative was born last year in London by a group of parliamentarians. They belonged to a five-year-old organisation known as Parliamentarians for World Order (PWO), an international network of legislators in 31 countries. In mid-1983, they dispatched delegations to meet with a select group of government leaders to discuss proposals for joint action.

"This is the first group of political leaders that has the ability to play an effective third-party role in negotiations to end the arms race," said Nicholas Dunlop, PWO secretary-general, who has shuttled back and forth across continents for most of the past year.

Final plans were laid at two meetings held at the Indian Embassy in London in February and March, attended by top foreign policy advisers to each national leader, and four PWO representatives, PTI said.

Death Toll Reaches 104 in Bombay Area Rioting

BK220321 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The situation in Bombay and Thane is under control. The state secretary for home affairs, Mr B.K. Chougle, told our Bombay correspondent this morning that the situation in Bhiwandi continues to be normal and peaceful. The death toll in the recent riots in the state since last Thursday has now reached 104. Over 2,000 people in Bhiwandi and greater Bombay have been arrested so far. In Bombay, police opened fire at three places in the northeastern and eastern suburbs last night to disperse violent mobs indulging in arson and looting. The places are Kherwari in Bandra, Ghatcooper, and Dharawi. Earlier, six persons lost their lives as the police opened fire to quell the disturbances in central Bombay during the day. In Thane, the police had to open fire at three places last night in which one person died.

The prime minister has said that the prime need of the hour in the riot-affected area is to restore normalcy and peace and communal harmony without trying to blame each other for the tragedy. Mrs Gandhi was addressing a press conference in Bombay yesterday after a visit to the riot-affected areas. She stressed the need to create a sense of security and mutual trust amongst the people belonging to various minority communities and religion. She appealed to all, including political parties, to help maintain peace, communal harmony, and unity in the country.

Over 100 Arrested in Hyderabad

BK211611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The situation in the curfew-bound area of Hyderabad old city is peaceful and no untoward incidents have taken place since last night. The state police commissioner, Mr K. Vijay Rama Rao, told newsmen 4 persons died and 31 others were injured in the violent incidents. Over 100 persons have been taken into custody. Curfew will be lifted for 2 hours from 0600 to 0800 tomorrow and will be reimposed again until 0800 Wednesday morning in certain areas except the area covering the police stations of Mangalhut and Habibnagar.

However, the curfew will be lifted in the polling booth area of Asafnagar, where the polling is taking place tomorrow.

11 Killed in Continuing Violence in Punjab

BK220329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] In Punjab, 11 persons were killed and over 13 injured at different places in the state since last evening. Four passengers of a bus were killed by some armed terrorists near Moga near Faridpore District last night. The bus was on its way from Chandigarh to Ferozepore. In five other incidents of firing by different groups of unidentified miscreants, two persons were killed and one injured in a village near (Khalra) in Amritsar and one each in Bhaga Purana in Faridpore District, Mansa in Bhatinda District, (Hariana) in Hoshiarpur District and (Sellore) in Jullundhur District. Another person lost his life and 12 persons were injured when two hand grenades burst in a club in Batala in Gurdaspur District last night. The grenades were reported to have been lobbed by some car-borne miscreants. The adviser to the governor, Mr Surendranath, said in Chandigarh this morning that the statewide alert has been sounded and patrolling by police and paramilitary forces has been intensified. He said raids are also being organized on all probable hideouts of the terrorists.

Meanwhile, a high-level meeting of Akali leaders is scheduled to be held in Amritsar today.

Arms, Ammunition Seized

BK191631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] In Punjab, combing operations have been intensified by the security forces, particularly in border villages, to prevent illicit arms and ammunition reaching the extremists. According to official sources, nine smugglers were arrested and some arms and ammunition recovered in the last 4 days. The combing operations will be continued.

In Chandigarh, the inspector general of police, Mr P.S. Bhinder, told newsmen that a large quantity of illicit arms and ammunition were recovered in Amritsar and Ferozepore Districts. In Amritsar District, the police arrested 237 persons and recovered 4 Sten guns, 2 self-loading rifles, 8 other rifles, 2 guns, 30 pistols and revolvers, 42 hand granades, and a large quantity of cartridges during the period 8th to the 14th of this month.

In Ferozepore District, 16 persons were arrested and 14 pistols, 1 double-barrel gun, and about 100 cartridges recovered during the last fortnight. Ten activists of the banned All India Sikh Students Federation have so far been detained under the National Security Act in Ferozepore District.

Mr Bhinder disclosed that the Amritsar police have successfully solved the murder of Squadron Leader Paramjit Singh committed at (Kritnagar) near Amritsar about a month back. Two persons have been arrested and the articles stolen from his residence recovered.

Mr Bhinder also said that the Amritsar police have arrested two of about half a dozen miscreants who robbed a bank in village (Sudar) in Amritsar District early today after a hot chase.

According to official sources, 324 activists of the All India Sikh Students Federation have been arrested so far. Of these, only 53 are students.

Arms From Foreign Source

BK201621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr P. Venkatasubbiah, has said that the center has reports that the arms and ammunition being used by extremists in Punjab were smuggled from outside the country. He said all possible measures would be taken to prevent supply of illegal arms to terrorists in Punjab by external forces. Efforts will also be made to unearth the arms already smuggled into the country.

Mr Venkatasubbiah was talking to newsmen in Calcutta today. He said the government is keen to hold discussions with the Akalis to find a solution.

Jullundur Curfew Extended

BK211625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] In Punjab, the Ferozepore police last evening intercepted a truck on religious duty for routine checking and arrested two armed miscreants traveling in it. The police recovered one revolver, one pistol, and some ammunition from them.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that during the preliminary interrogation, the miscreants have admitted to having committed five murders and snatched a car and a scooter from their victims.

Meanwhile, the night curfew in some parts of Jullundur has been further extended to Wednesday morning.

The Congress-I working president, Mr Kamlapati Tripathi, has said that the situation in Punjab has improved. This is the impression gained by the party observers, who have returned after touring the state.

Mr Tripathi told newsmen in New Delhi today that the observers found no communal feeling among the rural people. The public is against violence and killing. Asked why the extremists are given shelter, he said it is out of fear.

The observers also reported about a lot of unlicensed arms being smuggled from neighboring areas and from across the borders. About the mass contact program organized by the party leaders in the state, Mr Tripathi said it has created a good effect in the rural areas. The people have responded to the program, he added.

Byelection Results for 11 Constituencies Noted

BK211603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpts] In the byelections to 20 assembly constituencies spread over 12 states, the Congress-I has bagged 5 seats, Bharatiya Janata Party 2, out of the 11 results declared so far. Telugu Desam, Congress-J, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, and Forward Bloc have got one each.

Counting of votes is in progress in all the remaining constituencies where polling was held yesterday, except in Asafnagar constituency in Andhra Pradesh. The election commission has ordered resumption of polling tomorrow in one booth, where polling was adjourned yesterday afternoon following a clash between supporters of rival candidates.

Naik, Rasgotra Affirm Commitment to Improved Ties

BK201628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan, Mr M.K. Rasgotra and Mr Niaz Naik, had day-long talks in two sessions in Islamabad today on promoting friendly relations between the two countries. Most of the time they were without aides. They had a private meeting in the morning for an hour, after which their delegations joined them. They had another private meeting in the afternoon. They later signed a protocol on group tourism and exchanged letters on removing some of the irritants in the existing visa regulations.

Speaking to newsmen after the signing ceremony, both the foreign secretaries said their talks are going on very well. They are scheduled to continue their discussions over the next 3 days.

The All India Radio special correspondent, Manohar Takroo, says the talks relate to the entire range of bilateral relations, including the deeper issues of preserving peace between the two countries. In this context, there were two most important drafts: one on peace, friendship, and cooperation proposed by India, and the other a no-war pact which was suggested by Pakistan.

Both the foreign secretaries reaffirmed the commitment of their respective countries to establish good-neighborly and tension-free relations. They recalled that the Simla agreement had provided a basis for a step-by-step approach and said that considerable progress had been made in this regard, especially in recent months. The joint commission was an important step in this direction.

Mr Rasgotra and Mr Naik emphasized the need to concentrate more on positive aspects rather than on negative actions which impede the development of friendly relations. They wanted visits at all levels to be stepped in all walks of life, both official and nonofficial. There should be more exchange of educational and published materials.

One of the specific issues taken up was the schedule for the next meeting of the joint commission. According to the earlier arrangement, the commission was expected to meet in July in New Delhi. The two foreign secretaries made a particular reference to the information media in both the countries, and said that both play an important role and can improve the climate of friendship. There was a provision in this connection in the Simla agreement.

Under the protocol signed today, tourists from one country can visit the other for a period not exceeding 15 days in groups of 30 to 100. Another agreement removes certain hardships faced by travelers under the existing arrangements.

50 Injured in Clash of Sunni Muslim Sects

OW212339 Hong Kong AFP in English 2309 GMT 21 May 84

[By Michel Martin-Roland]

[Text] Islamabad, May 22 (AFP) — About 50 people were injured Monday night, ten of them critically, in the biggest clash ever between Pakistani Sunni Moslems, the country's main religious denomination. The bloodshed came when an estimated 30,000 extremists rioted for control of the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore, the world's biggest mosque excepting the one in Mecca.

About 25,000 partisans of the Brelvi sect seized the mosque after overcoming the resistance of several thousand Deobandi sect members barring the approach to the mosque, which they had long controlled. Some shots were fired, but no bullet wounds were reported. The Brelvis immediately set about covering the historic walls with religious slogans.

For a week, authorities in Lahore had been appealing for calm. Two days ago, they had banned gatherings of more than four people. Authorities issued a statement Monday night appealing to all religious leaders in the country to show tolerance and help the military government restore peace. It was the only statement on the crisis that newspapers were allowed to print.

Witnesses accused police of not trying to prevent the clash. Officials denied that. They said police were separating the two groups, until a small group of Deobandis succeeded in reaching the mass of Brelvis, which then poured down on the mosque like a wave.

The trouble started last March 23 when worshippers in Badshahi Mosque shouted "Death to the Prophet" after a sermon by a Deobandi dignitary from Egypt, Qari 'Abd al-Basit.

The two rival sects are of about equal size among Pakistan's 85 million Moslems. The Brelvis, mostly farmers, cling to the more superstitious traditions of Indian Islam. The Deobandis, higher on the social ladder, are closer to the austere Islam of the Arab world. The two sects are named after two cities in northern India where their main religious schools are located.

The clash added to tension that had already been rising in connection with a harsh government decision concerning the small Ahmadi sect, which does not recognize Muhammad as the last prophet. Other Pakistani sects accuse the Ahmadis of being "kafirs" (pagans).

The rise in religious intolerance was denounced in Lahore Sunday by the spokesman of the alliance of political opposition parties, the Movement for Restoration of Democracy. Spokesman Nawabzada Nasraullan Khan said intolerance was resulting from the military regime's policy of "pretended" Islamization.

NEPAL

Panchayat Leaders Attend Population Control Meeting

BK181550 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Katmandu, May 18 (AFP) — Nepal's three-day national-level political conference opened today, attended by more than 300 participants, focusing on the problems of population control and migration from India.

Senior Panchayat (legislature) leaders, including some former prime ministers, are attending the conference, which is being boycotted by the leaders of banned major political parties. Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand himself did not participate.

The secretary for the National Population Commission, Dr. Bed Prasad Upetti, in his brief welcome speech referred to Nepal's population growth and immigrants, particularly from India, as the main causes of the country's socioeconomic and political problems. Dr. Upetti said that the population growth stood at the rate of 27 children per 1,000 people. He added that 2,000 children were born every 24 hours but that the death rate among them stood at 800. Various participants stressed the need for strict population control and as well as controlling immigration by regulating Nepal's 650 mile (1,046 kilometer) open border with India.

Speaking on behalf of the Population Coordination Committee, Achut Raj Regmi said that between 1972 and 1982 the population had grown at the annual rate of 2.66 per cent, higher than that of neighbouring countries such as India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and China.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Departs for China, South Korea

BK191108 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpts] The president, accompanied by Mrs Jayewardene, left the island this morning for state visits to China and South Korea aimed at further strengthening Sri Lanka's relations with the two countries. During his official tour, Mr Jayewardene is expected to make an unofficial visit to Japan.

President Jayewardene is expected to spend tonight in Hong Kong before beginning his official tour of China tomorrow.

Development Funds Not Directed at Fighting Terrorism

BK201155 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The minister of national security and acting minister of defense, Lalith Athulathmudali, has emphasized that the government will not use funds allocated for development work to wipe out terrorism in the north.

Speaking at a public meeting held in the Eheliyagoda electorate yesterday, the minister reiterated the need for people's cooperation and dedication to curb terrorism. It was in this regard that a national defense fund was established. It is not possible to wipe out terrorism by a single individual. All communities should extend their cooperation in this task. Terrorists taken into custody have said that they had no intention of dividing the country. They expected a reasonable solution to issues, such as education, employment, and land.

Mr Athulathmudali stressed that although this was not a difficult task for the government, acts of terrorism should be wiped out. The minister underscored the need for a stop to acts of violence in the north and urged them to join the others in the development of the country.

Tamil Politician Questioned Concerning Kidnapping

BK221107 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] A top Tamil politician in the north was questioned by a special Criminal Investigation Department [CID] official in Jaffna a day ago over the kidnapping of the American couple, Stanley and Mary Allen. The politician was questioned at his residence in Jaffna. His house in Jaffna is situated in the same premises as that of his party headquarters. The CID official visited this house and made a close study of its structure.

Informed sources said the police suspected that this house had been used by the kidnappers to keep the Allens after abduction.

EPRLF Leader Threatens 'Repeat Performance'

BK201017 Hong Kong AFP in English 1008 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] New Delhi, May 20 (AFP) — The leader of a Tamil separatist group that held a U.S. couple hostage for five days in Sri Lanka last week was threatened a repeat performance.

K. Padmanabha, general secretary of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), was quoted by the Indian newspaper *PATRIOT* as saying "the abduction is a legitimate means to focus attention on massacre of Tamils in Sri Lanka and we will use it again, if necessary." Interviewed for the first time since the kidnapping Mr Padmanabha said the operation to abduct Stanley and Mary Allen was planned six months ago.

They were freed Wednesday in a church in northern Sri Lanka, though the EPRLF's demands for two million dollars in gold and freedom for 20 jailed colleagues were not met.

"We are not terrorists. We could have bumped the couple off -- we had the power — but we did not do so," he said.

The EPRLF is one of several organisations demanding a separate state for the Tamils, a minority in Sri Lanka, who claim discrimination against them by the dominant Sinhalese.

Foreign Ministry Stresses Desire for Gulf Stability

LD220729 Tehran IRNA in English 0701 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — Iran is exerting utmost efforts to preserve security and stability in the Persian Gulf and sought non-interference of any foreign power in the region, said a Foreign Affairs Ministry announcement here Monday.

The announcement, released in connection with the Sunday resolution of the Arab Foreign Ministers meeting in Tunisia, further added that the Islamic Republic regarded just as highly the security of its own ports as other states do theirs. Therefore, it stressed, in case the Islamic Republic was deprived of exporting its oil, no oil would be exported from the region.

The announcement noted that the resolution of the Arab foreign ministers session ignored consideration of realities and failed to notice the fanning of the flames of war by the Iraqi regime to further increase tension in the region.

The session, ignoring the consequences, had served the aspiration of countries such as the United States, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, who had been main contributories to the creation of tension in the region, the announcement said.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic deemed itself responsible to inform world opinion, especially people of the region, that Iran was diligently endeavoring to preserve security and stability in the Persian Gulf region, the Foreign Ministry announcement noted.

U.S. Officials' Visits 'Suspicious'

GF221146 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has referred to the suspicious visits and moves undertaken by some U.S. officials in the Middle East and Persian Gulf regions, asserting that the Islamic Republic of Iran — as it has emphasized repeatedly — desires to preserve security and stability in this region. Yet, at the same time, it is ready to strongly retaliate to any conspiratory move and to any adventure undertaken by the powers of the international arrogance designed to interfere in the Persian Gulf region.

Reaction to Arab Foreign Ministers' Resolution

Move Contravenes Regulations

LD211812 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 21 IRNA — Despite the opposition of Libya and Syria, the foreign ministers of Arab countries issued a resolution in support of Saddam and in condemnation of Iran, in conclusion of their meeting in Tunisia Sunday. The measures were in contradiction to the articles of association of the union.

According to the regulations of the union, any member country could veto the approval of any resolution at the union session by its opposition.

The resolution did not mention the Iraqi regime's attacks on oil tankers in international waters and the insecurity and tension it has caused in the Persian Gulf.

Stance Pleases U.S.

LD221036 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — The Reagan administration is now pleased with the result of the Arab League conference's open opposition to the Islamic revolution of Iran.

The official stance of the Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunisia against the Islamic Republic of Iran further satisfied Ronald Reagan that Arab rulers were truly hostile towards Iran, to the extent that Reagan even sent a message to the conference announcing his support for its decisions.

Foreign ministers of the Arab League countries, in spite of the opposition of Syrian and Libyan foreign affairs ministers, condemned Iran, on behalf of Washington, for what they referred to as "attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf."

In light of the fact that Iran draws decisions exhibiting its open opposition with the enemy of the Muslim ummah — the United States — it considers it deplorable that the U.S. in its confrontation with Iran always pits Arab rulers against the Islamic Republic.

However, it should be stated that it is not the Muslim Arab ummah facing with [as received] the Islamic Republic, but rather the palace dwellers of these states, since the love of Muslim Arabs for the Islamic revolution of Iran is manifestly clear.

The stance of Arab reactionaries against Iran is due to their insecurity in their shaky rules, for which they rely on the White House to survive.

For most member countries of this nationalistic order the main purpose is to please the White House which is regarded by the true Muslims as the centre from which anti-Islamic decisions are ordered to be executed.

If the Islamic [Republic] insists that Arab governments revise their stance and behave wisely it is not due to its weakness but rather believes that such a stance should not be set right through use of force of arms.

Iran has not become tired of confronting international imperialism and especially the United States, and decisions such as the one drawn by the Arab League would not hinder its Islamic struggle and mission.

The policy of revolutionary Iran is to fight with the U.S. and its lackeys, and the Muslim ummah is fully aware that Iran's decisions are designed to bring them honour, not disgrace.

U.S. Involvement in Gulf Conflict Would Be 'Lunacy'

LD211805 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA — In an interview with Persian daily *ETTELA'AT*, head of War Information Headquarters Kamal Kharrazi said that the United States is behind militaristic acts in the Persian Gulf. The interview which was published in today's issue of the daily quotes Kharrazi as saying that the Persian Gulf states have conspired to spread the flames of Iran-Iraq war in a bid to embroil other countries and exert increased global pressure upon the Islamic Republic in order to corner Iran and force her to compromise her principles at the negotiating table.

Kharrazi, however, warned that Iran's warnings in relation with the security of the Persian Gulf must be taken seriously, or else, "should our interests be jeopardised in the region, and once we find ourselves unable to export oil, it would be unreasonable that we should permit even as little as one ounce of oil to be exported from the Persian Gulf." He reminded that it would be "an act of outright lunacy" by the United States to involve itself in a confrontation in the Persian Gulf, because the fiasco of its rescue operations in Tabas in 1980 should long since have taught it a lesson.

The head of the War Information Headquarters reminded also that Iran's Air Force would be doing its best to provide aerial protection to vessels cruising in the Persian Gulf waterways.

Persian Gulf Seen as 'Another Vietnam' for U.S.

GF201804 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 May 84

[From "Political Follow-Up" program]

[Excerpt] Iran announced its stand that the region of the Persian Gulf and its shipping lanes will become a battlefront for the operations of the sacrificing heroes of Islam who will prevent any of the parties from benefiting from these lanes which Saddam, with international arrogance behind him, is trying to deprive us of.

If the United States wants to forget the defeats which the Islamic Revolution has inflicted on it on more than one level —whether in Iran, where it toppled its gendarme in the region, or in Lebanon, where its forces fled from the blows of Muslims, or in Iraq, where it is inflicting defeat on its surrogate Saddam — and commit any folly in the Persian Gulf waters, this will mean another (?tune) will be played for others to learn from, because our people are stronger than the challenges and are too great to be defeated by material force. In this determination, we are supported by all free and noble people of the world, because the more than 1 billion Muslims reject humiliation and disgrace.

International arrogance and its agents in the region will find that the waters of the Persian Gulf are their graves, as their bodies will become fish bait. Let them know that these words will be translated into action.

Will the American people be wise and confront (?Reagan), who is trying to win the elections? Has the ghost of Vietnam faded from the mind of the United States and the American people? If this is so, let them know that the Persian Gulf will become another Vietnam, but much greater and graver.

Khomeyni Receives Majlis Speaker, Other Officials

LD211424 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, here today received a group of ranking officials of the country, including the Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and minister of ershad Eslami [Islamic guidance] and posts, telegraph and telephone, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami, and Morteza Nabavi, respectively.

Others who were received by the imam were his special representative at the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organisation, head of the organisation, Friday prayers leader of Ashtyan Hojjat ol-Eslam Abulqasem Danesh Ashtyani, and also Yazd deputy in the Majlis Mohammad 'Ali Sadouqi.

Diplomats in Riyadh Affirm Country's Determination

GF191033 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Diplomatic sources residing in Riyadh have affirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has showed determination to deal strongly with the continued insecurity in the Persian Gulf.

The diplomatic sources believe that Saddam, who is expecting an important attack by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in southern and eastern Iraq, wants to drag the Saudi monarchy, the conservative Western regimes, and the United States into this war.

Khuzestan People Demonstrate Support for Gulf Stance

LD201812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Following the statements made by the president and the speaker of the Islamic Majlis in connection with direct confrontation with the conspiracies of the world-devouring America in the Persian Gulf, hundreds of thousands of martyr-nurturing people of various cities of Khuzestan Province gathered under the burning sun. While waving their fists as a sign of hatred toward the provocations made by America in the Persian Gulf, they asked the officials of the country to take measures to announce a general mobilization to confront the American provocations in the Persian Gulf.

On the same occasion, the brave residents of (Dasht-e Azadegan) took part in a march and announced their readiness to confront America. At a rally at the end of this march -- in which the Arab Muslim tribesmen of the region, military and police personnel, and members of the reconstruction crusade were present — the participants chanted slogans like "Death to America" and "War,

war until victory." The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Susangerd, in a speech referring to America's provocations in the region, announced the military preparedness of Susangerd Corps to confront American aggressors.

In this connection, a large march was held by the martyr-nurturing people of Masjed Soleyman, at which the Islamic Revolution prosecutor of Masjed Soleyman, while elaborating on the conspiracies of America in the Persian Gulf, said: If America tries to interfere in the Persian Gulf, the only outcome would be its own destruction. America should have learned from its defeats in Vietnam and Lebanon, and Iraq's defeat in the war imposed on Iran.

According to the same report, on the same occasion, government departments and revolutionary institutions in Khuzestan issued statements, condemned America's conspiracies, and announced their readiness to confront America.

Also, the public relations office of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Committee announced in a statement the unreserved support of the guardsmen of the Islamic Revolution Committee for the severe and appropriate warnings issued by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, in connection with the adventurist policies of America and its subservient slaves in the Persian Gulf, and announced their readiness to confront any aggression.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,733

LD211723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 84

[Communique No 1,733 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday, in the northwestern operational zone, as a result of the fire of the fighters of Islam which prevented the consolidation of the enemy's defensive positions, some of the equipment and fortifications of the forces of Saddam were set on fire and destroyed. In Piranshah and Sar Dasht operational zones the powerful defenders of Islam brought enemy infantry positions and observation posts under their crushing fire and disrupted their infantry activities on all lines of contact. Thirty enemy personnel were killed in those regions. In the Hajj 'Umran operational zone, as a result of the execution of fire by our units on enemy bunkers, foxholes, and motorized columns, a number of vehicles of the mercenary forces were damaged, a number of their bunkers were destroyed, and at least 34 Iraqi soldiers were killed.

In the western operational zones, sporadic exchanges of fire continued on all fronts and enemy artillery and armored units came under the fire of our artillery units. Losses suffered by the enemy on these fronts included 7 vehicles, 4 trenches and foxholes, 5 observation posts, 1 ammunition dump, 1 artillery piece, and more than 10 killed or wounded.

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational zone, as a result of the firing by the forces of Islam on enemy positions to the west of Arvand Rud, 13 trenches and foxholes of the aggressive Iraqi forces were destroyed and their engineering activities in that region were stopped.

Yesterday, as a result of the fire by the enemy's long-range weapons on the residential parts of Abadan one kindergarten and 22 houses were damaged.

Guards Corps Issues Warning on U.S. Intervention

LD181840 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 May 84

[Statement issued on 18 May by Central Headquarters of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With the blossoming, growth, and expansion of the holy flames of the Islamic Revolution in the hearts of the oppressed throughout the world, world arrogance — which felt its illegitimate interests on the verge of destruction and the danger of the fall of its sovereignty and cruel domination over the world's deprived nations — began the flames of the war against Islamic Iran through the hands of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime in the hope that this would prevent the expansion of the waves of this liberating movement. Although following the imposition of this unwanted war on the Muslim and martyr-nurturing Iranian nation, brave young people and heroic sons of the hezbollahi nation were martyred in the holy defense of the Islamic homeland and for the ideals of the Islamic Revolution, and although a great part of our country's resources was spent on repulsing the aggression and on the achievement of the just rights of the Islamic nation, the blows dealt by the blasphemy-fighting combatants of Islam at the body of the forces of the Zionist regime ruling Baghdad brought about such a defeat for world arrogance that criminal America and its mercenary aides began to undertake mischievous measures together with the hireling Iraqi regime in order to compensate for this defeat and to prevent the Islamic combatants' final victory on the battlefronts.

Following the enlightening speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, his holiness the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, in his Friday prayers in Tehran, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps brings the following matters to the attention of the Islamic community and the Muslim Iranian nation:

1. With the collaboration of the Zionists ruling Iraq and other reactionary regimes in the region, criminal America is creating a tense situation in the Persian Gulf in an attempt to extend the war to this region and in their vain imagination to prepare the ground for superpower intervention with the aim of destroying Islam and the Islamic revolution. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps declares its readiness to use its defense potential and combative forces, including the devoted guards and the heroes of the corps' mobilization unit. It emphatically warns those involved in the conspiracy against the Islamic revolution that in the case of warmongering by the satanical powers in the Persian Gulf, the defenders of Islam with the help of God will eradicate criminal America from this region and will turn the whole region into another Tabas.

The American rulers must remember the extraordinary and unlimited power of the Islamic nation and must once again review in their minds the experience of the defeat in Lebanon and the death of hundreds of American and French forces at the hands of Muslim revolutionaries which took place in difficult conditions and despite the presence of thousands of American, Israeli, French, and British soldiers, so that they may realize the meaning of the antiarrogance cries and the slogans of the Islamic nation, which contain absolute sense.

They must know that in the case of America's intervention in the Persian Gulf region our fronts will no longer be confined to the west and south of our country and that the interests of all those involved in the conspiracy against the Islamic Revolution will become the target of the soldiers of Islam. Reagan must also be aware that resorting to these acts of adventurism and warmongering will have no effect on regaining his lost credit and that in the case of intervention in the region he must also think about something other than sitting in the presidential chair, like the former U.S. president.

2. The great Islamic duty of Friday and congregational imams and Islamic ulema throughout the world liberation movements and the billion-strong Islamic community, who are now the target of the overt and covert aggression of world arrogance, entails that they should prepare themselves to endanger the interests of Western arrogance throughout the world in the case of the continuation of America's warmongering in Islamic regions. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps declares its readiness to expand and activate the necessary communication in this regard.

3. The Muslim and martyr-nurturing Iranian nation, which has proved its unique resistance, steadfastness, devotion and sacrifices throughout the revolution period and in the course of the imposed war, must prepare itself further to confront the conspiracies designed by the arch-Satan criminal America and implemented with the collaboration of its aides, so that with reliance on Almighty God it can if required rub the noses of the warmongers in the dust in such a way as to destroy the roots of aggression against the interests of the nations, and the crime, corruption, and plunder of other countries.

[Signed] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

IRGC Commander Affirms Readiness

LD191705 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Mashhad, May 19 IRNA — Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Resa'i said here today that Saddam's recent adventurism in the Persian Gulf waters was the obvious result of the victories of the Islamic combatants of Iran in the Khaybar operation (in Feb). He said following the Khaybar offensive, shockwaves spread around the world prompting such drastic reactions as Iraqi employment of chemical weapons, the wide movements of American, French, British and Soviet fleet around the Strait of Hormuz, as well as the wide-scale rumours on the Islamic Republic's capability of manufacturing atomic weapons. Speaking in an exclusive interview with IRNA, Reza'i also said that if Iran had not launched Operation Khaybar, "Our enemies would not resort to economic pressures and disruption of our oil exports."

Asked whether the IRGC's naval units would be capable of thwarting imperialists' military operations in the Persian Gulf waters, Commander Reza'i stated that "our naval units have already proven their strength in the Khaybar operation." He said our Navy personnel had crossed 50 kms on the Hoveyzeh marsh and had reached the road near the Tigris and Euphrates, thus proving that they were capable of fighting in water and sea very well and also of engaging in long and wide-scale wars.

On the possibility of a direct U.S. intervention in the region the IRGC commander said the Americans presently were not in a position to take the risk of direct intervention and of deploying military forces. But, Reza'i said, it was probable for them to cause some disturbances in the Strait of Hormuz or elsewhere through their naval facilities and thus engage in mischievous activities. In that case, he said, the Islamic Republic also would be prepared to act decisively and with full strength and to bury the U.S. in the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf.

Reza'i said the Persian Gulf countries had placed political conspiracies in their agenda and that the recent developments in the Middle East indicated that the U.S. and its agents had concluded that they could neither fight in Lebanon nor in Iran.

On the Zionist regime's silence vis-a-vis the wide-scale U.S. support for reactionary regimes in the region, the commander said in the past, any U.S. support for the reactionary Arab countries prompted the strong protest of Israelis, while today despite the U.S. massive arms buildup in these (Arab) countries, the Zionist regime had kept silent.

The commander reiterated that the IRGC was prepared in every corner of the world to jeopardise the interests of all those countries which tried to act against the Islamic Republic.

Referring to Iraqi use of the facilities and coasts of certain countries of the region, to disrupt the Islamic Republic's oil exports, Reza'i advised them to keep clear of this dangerous scuffle and leave alone the sinking regime of Saddam, which, he said, was trying to drag down the others with itself as well.

IRGC Forces Near Strait of Hormuz Affirm Vigilance

LD211445 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Bandar 'Abbas, May 21, IRNA — The Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) of the various cities of the Hormozgan Province, Persian Gulf coast, in announcements issued today expressed their readiness to encounter any force which tried to commit act of aggression in the Persian Gulf.

The statements were issued following the recent speech of the Majlis speaker and special representative of Imam Khomeyni in the Supreme Defence Council, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, concerning the possibility of direct intervention of the U.S., in Persian Gulf.

The statements of the IRGC stressed that the Iraqi ruler and his supporters by creating tension in Persian Gulf and involving the reactionary governments of the region were trying to find a way out for themselves.

Meanwhile, the Friday prayers leaders of the Hormozgan Province and Bushehr and also other revolutionary organisations and institutions, issued similar statements pledging their support for the statement of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Majlis Election Results Noted; Assembly Opens 28 May

LD212308 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA — With final results in from nearly all constituencies of Thursday's second-round elections, the second four-year term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (the Majlis) will officially open next Tuesday, May 28th.

So far 251 representatives have been elected, including 30 from Tehran, in the first and second round of the elections. The remainder of the 270 seats in the Majlis will go to representatives of 12 towns and cities in which the first round of elections there on April 15 was nullified by the Council of Guardians for various violations.

The 12 towns and cities are Shiraz, Isfahan, Amol, Darab, Joroft, Qa'imshahr, Kuhdasht, Faridan, Shahriar, Khomeynishahr, Noru, and Behshahr. Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri said today that by-elections would be held there in late July.

The Majlis can legally operate with at least 180 representatives.

Meanwhile, in today's Majlis proceedings, the deputy from Tehran warned the rulers of the Persian Gulf states that they would be the first to suffer from the effects of a United States intervention in the region.

Fakhreddin Hejazi, the deputy from Tehran, said the Iranian Muslim people were in the most crucial point in the history of Islam, when capitalism, Zionism and communism had joined together with regional reactionary states to destroy the revolutionary Islamic movement.

The Majlis today approved a bill for the transfer of all books, including old manuscripts, confiscated from the elements of the shah's regime to the central library of the Tehran University within three months.

According to the bill, the books and manuscripts which the university does not need would be transferred to the Majlis library, the National Library, the A'zam Mosque Library in Qom, the Tablighat Office in Qom, the Razavi Foundation in Mashhad, public libraries, and the Islamic Guidance Ministry, respectively.

Also, all illegal books and documents concerning colonialist Baha'i sect should be handed to the Islamic Guidance Ministry.

Tehran Constituency Results Announced

GF211036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The Executive Committee of the Tehran electoral district has announced that out of 1,177,596 votes cast at 2,419 polling stations in Tehran constituency, the following persons received the majority of votes:

Mohammad 'Ali Hadi Najafabadi, Hoseyn Kamali, Mohammad Yazdi, Marziyeh Habibchi-Dabbagh, Hasan Ruhani, Musa Zargar, Mohammad Baqir Mohioddin Anwari, Ebrahim Esrafilian, Seyyed Reza Zawar'i, Seyyed Mohammad Asghari, Mariam Za'farani-Behruzi, Seyyed Hoseyn Musaviyani, Mohammad Hashem Rahbari, Sa'id Amani-Hamadani, 'Abbas Duzduzani, Assadollah Badamchioan, and Seyyed Kamaloddin Yadavar Nikravesh.

Interior Minister Addresses Drug Smuggling Problem

LD211414 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpts] The bodies of seven martyrs killed by international smugglers in Sistan va Baluchestan were carried to Tehran cemetery amid shouts of "God is great" by the citizens of Tehran.

During the funeral service, Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri, who was attending the service, said: From the very first day that the men of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps put on the uniform for safeguarding Islam, they pledge themselves to give their blood and lives and prepare themselves to confront any conspiracy.

The interior minister added: The problem of drug smuggling is an acute political problem; it must be fought on the front opened by the counterrevolutionaries. He said: The danger posed by armed smugglers in Sistan va Baluchestan is no less than the danger posed by the hypocrites. One must confront them quite decisively.

Alluding to an increase in the seizure of drugs since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Nateq-Nuri said: The smugglers now being prosecuted by the Islamic Revolution Committees established extensive and organized networks which controlled the distribution of drugs in Sistan va Baluchestan. Following the arrest of 60 traffickers, over 700 kg of drugs were seized.

He added: In a period of over 2 years, the group smuggled into the country 160 metric tons of drugs. The interior minister emphasized: We are determined to turn the western desert of Iran into a graveyard for counterrevolutionary smugglers and the region's bandits. In this connection, measures for the control and sealing off of 2,000 km of border strip, which plays a significant role in preventing drug smuggling, began 1 and 1/2 years ago. A highway is to be built in the region for this purpose.